

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-07 IO-13 /084 W

-----070278 101324Z /45

R 091138Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0376

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV RH

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BASIL AND HENRY MUZOREWA

REF: DARESSALAAM 3111

1. EMBOFF RECENTLY DISCUSSED RHODESIAN SITUATION WITH BASIL AND HENRY MUZOREWA, BROTHERS OF UANC LEADER BISHOP MUZOREWA. BASIL IS RESIDENT OF GABORONE AS LECTURER IN UBS ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT WHILE HENRY DEPARTED RHODESIA TWO WEEKS AGO EN ROUTE TO US FOR STUDY AT UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, NEW YORK. WHEN ASKED ABOUT BISHOP'S RECENTLY ANNOUNCED FOUR-STEP PROPOSAL FOR SOLUTION OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM, BOTH BASIL AND HENRY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ITS ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE PROVISIONS. IF THIS CONDITION WERE AGREED TO IN ADVANCE, BISHOP WOULD, ACCORDING TO HIS BROTHERS, BE WILLING TO REACH CONSTITUTIONAL SETTLEMENT WITH SMITH AND BRITISH. MUZOREWAS CONTRASTED BISHOP'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE HIS CHANCES IN FREE ELECTIONS ON ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE PRINCIPLE WITH POPULAR FRONT'S DEMAND THAT POWER BE TRANSFERRED ONLY

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TO IT.

2. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF OUTSIDE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE TO SUPERVISE ELECTIONS, MUZOREWA'S SAID BISHOP MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT UN OR COMMONWEALTH FORCE. HOWEVER, OAU FORCE WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE MANIPULATED BY ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT

KAUNDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH OAU AND FRONTLINE STATES' INDORSEMENT OF POPULAR FRONT. ACCORDING TO MUZOREWAS, APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT OF RHODESIA'S WHITES WILL NOT BE SATISFIED WITH ANY MAJORITY RULE SETTLEMENT AND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY EMIGRATE NO MATTER WHICH NATIONALIST FACTION COMES TO POWER.

3. BASIL AND HENRY REJECTED NOTION THAT BISHOP LACKS SUPPORT AMONG "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" AND STATED THAT WESTERN OBSERVERS OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE HAD BEEN FOOLED BY POPULAR FRONT MILITARY POSTURING SUCH AS NKOMO'S RECENT APPEARANCES IN GENERAL'S UNIFORM. ACCORDING TO MUZOREWAS, MANY SUPPORTERS OF BISHOP ENTER POPULAR FRONT TRAINING CAMPS BECAUSE OUTSIDE ARMS SUPPLIERS (UNNAMED) CHANNEL ALL WEAPONS THROUGH EITHER NKOMO OR MUGABE. WHEN GUERRILLAS RETURN TO ZIMBABWE, HOWEVER, MANY RETAIN THEIR LOYALTY TO THE BISHOP SO THAT HE ENJOYS WIDESPREAD, IF OFTEN OVERLOOKED, SUPPORT AMONG "FREEDOM FIGHTERS".

4. COMMENT: WHILE BASIL AND HENRY DO NOT NECESSARILY SPEAK FOR THEIR BROTHER, WE NOTE THAT THEIR OBSERVATIONS COINCIDE IN MANY RESPECTS WITH MESSAGE PASSED TO EMBASSY DARESSALAAM BY UANC REPRESENTATIVE EMMANUEL MUTEMASANGO (REFTEL). DESPITE HIS PUBLIC PROTESTATIONS TO CONTRARY, BISHOP MAY BE READY TO ACCUQASOME SORT OF "INTERNAL SOLUTION" WITH SMITH REGIME IF ITS TERMS WOULD BENEFIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UANC IN ONGOING CONFLICT AMONG NATIONALIST GROUPS. WE HAVE NO WAY TO INDEPENDENTLY ASSESS CLAIM THAT BISHOP ENJOYS SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT AMONG "FREEDOM FIGHTERS", ALTHOUGH WE NOTE THAT GUNS WERE LISTED FIRST AMONG UANC REQUESTS PRESENTED TO EMBASSY DARESSALAAM BY MUTEMASANGO. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THOUSANDS OF RHODESIANS WHO HAVE TURNED OUT FOR BISHOP'S PUBLIC APPEARANCES WOULD BE WILLING TO FIGHT ON HIS BEHALF. HOOVER

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Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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